

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 have been examined. Claims 1-10 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claim amendment

Claim 5 has been amended to correct a typographical error, and Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to enter the amendment into the record.

Claim rejections -- 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Sakamoto, which is previously of record. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 1 recites the feature of a selection means which makes a selection of data for each picture frame, on a frame-by-frame basis. The Examiner maintains that this feature is disclosed by Sakamoto at col. 8, lines 30-42 and claim 7. New to this action, the Examiner also adds a citation to Figs. 5-6; and col. 7, line 21 to col. 9, line 13. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's position.

At col. 8, lines 30-42, Sakamoto merely describes an encoding-decoding-re-encoding process to produce both "normal" and "fast playback" data. However, at these lines, Sakamoto does not teach the selection of this data. Claim 7 is no better. Claim 7 discloses synchronizing the start and end of the encoding and the re-encoding so as to obtain normal and fast playback coded data *simultaneously*. Thus, no selection is made.

Figs. 5 and 6 mere disclose diagrams describing the *production* of fast playback coded data. Again, no disclosure of any selection is made.

Lastly, the Examiner cites to three columns of the Sakamoto disclosure. However, in reviewing cols. 7-9, the closest description of a selection step that Applicant has found is at col. 7, lines 44-50. At these lines, Sakamoto discloses that normal playback coded data and fast playback coded data are separately stored in advance on a video server, and coded video data are “switched between these two types of coded video data whenever a normal playback request or a fast playback request is issued by the set-top device, so as to realize the fast playback (visual search) mode similar to that provided in a usual VTR device.” However, claim 1 sets forth that the selection of data is made on a frame-by-frame basis, not “whenever a playback request” is made. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable over Sakamoto for these reasons.

Moreover, the claimed feature would not be inherent from the Sakamoto disclosure, since, in Sakamoto, the selection of the data is based on a desire of a user. Since most frame rates are multiple frames per second, Applicant respectfully submits that a user would not be able to select data on a frame-by-frame basis as recited by claim 1 -- a user selection could not occur fast enough. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable over Sakamoto for these reasons.

Independent claim 5 recites features analogous to those of claim 1 discussed above, and therefore Applicant respectfully submits that claim 5 is patentable over Sakamoto for the same reasons.

Claims 2-4 and 6-8 are patentable based on their respective dependencies.

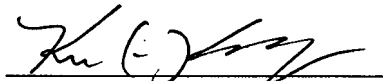
With respect to claims 9 and 10, these claims each recite the feature of a replacing means/step which replaces a portion of the encoded data with the re-encoded data. The Examiner maintains that this feature is met by Sakamoto at claim 1, element (c), and claim 4. However, at these claims, Sakamoto merely recites re-encoding to produce the re-encoded data. Thus, Sakamoto does not disclose *replacing* a portion of the encoded data with the re-encoded data, as set forth by the claims. Claims 9-10 are thus patentable for this reason.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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